



Trees being
felled at
Trinity
College,
1950

254.65

Cambridge TREES and PLANTS Chronicle

1892

1892

Trees planted along Victoria Avenue [1.9]

1894

1894

Victoria Avenue trees removed as need room for Royal Agricultural Show & put in nursery plot on Chesterton side of river, replanted when over [1.9]

1897

1897

Chesterton Road limes planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee [1.10]

1897 04 24

Florists' Society demise, 1897 04 24 p2 CDN

1906

1906 05 19

Years ago Cambridge was noted as a centre growing the finest tulips, craze died down but now reviving [3.5]

1906 01 06

Last night's gale was one of the most severe within living memory. Great damage was done all over Cambridge. On Newmarket Road a tall chimney at the brickworks began to sway violently and then

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

fell with a tremendous crash. The large trees at the Backs suffered considerably; five were uprooted and blown into Queen's Road. During the morning numbers of poor people were busily engaged in taking away the portions they could carry for firewood. Two children took away a branch of considerable weight using a pair of wheels taken from a perambulator 06 01 06e

1906 04 23

No one who has seen the courts of many of the old colleges in early summer, well furnished with window-boxes full of luxuriant plants can deny they add greatly to their beauty. There is not much variety in the contents: usually geraniums, calceolarias and Paris daisies, while lobelia hangs down from them in long trails. In winter small shrubs, generally variegated, are used.06 04 23a

1906 08 04

Gardeners beware: your neat little flower patches are in danger from apparently innocent young children. They will make flattering comments upon your show of roses, geraniums and other blooms but when no one is about they will quickly open the garden gate and before you realise it, the best of your blooms are torn off. Sometimes the flowers are within reach of a small hand thrust through the railings and they will mysteriously disappear.

06 08 04

1907

1907

Trees planted on west side of Queens Road between West Road & Burrell's Walk 50 06 19

1910

1910 07 08

Much to the regret of the Proprietors of the Cambridge University and Town Roller Skating Rink, who have taken a lease of the beautiful Pythagoras Gardens, and to the disappointment of the public generally, it has been found necessary, owing to complications arising as a result of a misunderstanding between themselves, the lessees and Merton College, Oxford, the owners, to discontinue the use of the gardens for public entertainment. For some time past, hundreds of visitors have spent an enjoyable hour upon the open-air rink and splendid lawns – 10 07 08aa

1911

1911 09 15

P.C. John Wallage heard a noise in St John's college garden, looked over the hedge and saw the prisoner pulling up beetroot and putting them in a sack. The man ran off down Madingley Road. When caught he used very bad language and threatened to 'bash his brains out' and shoot him. The language woke a gardener living 100 yards away. Frederick Hutt, gardener at St John's College found the place where some beetroot had been growing: they were very similar to the ones in the sack. The thief was fined ten shillings 11 09 15b

1912

1912

Hyde Park Corner Lombardy Poplar cut down, was planted by Julian Skrine in his garden at Lensfield, the grounds of which extended to where the Catholic Church now stands 38 12 24, 51 03 03

1912 02 23

In 1898 a number of men in the neighbourhood of Newmarket Road decided to form an allotment association to acquire land that the Co-operative Society were relinquishing. 12 02 23f

1913

1913 01 24

Cambridge Allotment Committee regulations say holders should keep plots free from weeds and not plant any fruit trees or bushes, strawberry plants, asparagus, rhubarb or any other market garden crops

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

which produce for two or more years They could erect a tool house, greenhouse, fowl house or pigsty with permission but not keep more than two pigs nor take any dog on the allotment. 13 01 24 p7 CIP

1913 11 28

Edward Rickard, a builder, was probably the greatest amateur natural historian outside the University and published a book on Leaves containing actual specimens. He was an entomologist, a botanist, geologist and taxidermist who had a collection of nearly 2,000 insects, 800 beetles and over 300 ferns. He had stuffed thousands of birds with one case containing 129 small British examples. A few years ago he had over 6,000 specimens of various kinds but lack of room had recently compelled a reduction 13 11 28 p4 CIP

1915

1915 06 11

Botanical Allotment Field enclosed garden – woman found in a summer house 15 06 11 p7

1916

1916 03 29

March blizzards. The wind, which had been boisterous during the day, developed into a heavy gale, accompanied by snow. A good deal of damage was done to telegraph and telephone wires, trees were uprooted. On Tuesday morning the ground was covered with snow. Trains were late owing to wires being down. Rain set in during the day, but towards the close of the afternoon this turned to snow. The wind, too, increased in violence until it was blowing quite a hurricane. Huge trees gave way before the violence of the wind, chimney pots and slates came crashing down, whilst many fences collapsed. The Corporation workmen had to be called out to assist in clearing away fallen trees, and to assist the police in warning vehicles. Several pedestrians had narrow escapes. Among the many trees which fell was the famous plane tree in the Catholic Rectory grounds, which has been visited by arboriculturists from all over the world. 16 03 29 CIPof

1916 04 05

In the wake of the blizzard – photo feature – clearing trees – 16 04 05

1916 04 05

Oriental plane tree in grounds of Catholic Rectory one of those damaged in gale, was planted 90 years ago – 16 04 05b, c

1916 04 26

The rookeries in Cambridge have been a good deal upset by the recent gales. Trees, which for generations have yearly been occupied by rooks, have been blown down, and some of the college grounds most frequented by them are now almost deserted, the silence being I most remarkable to those accustomed to the "cawing" of the sable birds. This is particularly noticeable at St. John's, formerly one of the most favourable nesting centres, and generally at the Backs there are fewer nests than usual 16 04 26 CIPof

1917

1917 04 04

A Drastic Resolution. The following resolution has been passed by the Allotments Subcommittee for Newnham and Castle End: "That inasmuch as they have received 50 applications for allotments, which they are unable to satisfy, they beg to request the Town Council to break up the Lammas Land at Newnham without delay, viz., without waiting for formal authority from any higher authority". As a result the Borough Member is to be asked to interview the Authorities of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries with regard to the application of the committee for permission to use the Lammas Land and empty common for allotments 17 04 04 CIPof

1917 05 16

Vinery Road allotments set out – photos – 17 05 16f

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

1917 06 13

Allotments. A walk round the various allotment grounds in the Borough of Cambridge is distinctly encouraging ('says the' writer of Town and Country Topics), for the most unpromising plots of the newly-cultivated land are turning out better than the most optimistic might have expected. The crops are through the soil, and show splendid promise, and the allotment holders must feel greatly encouraged and well rewarded for their labours, which have not been light. We hope that as the result of war-time measures the gardening habit may be re-established at Cambridge. A quarter of a century or so ago gardening was practised very extensively in Cambridge, and amateur horticulturists and college gardeners were produced who accomplished wonders in the way of intensive cultivation and carried off prizes even in All-England shows. The growth of Cambridge and other causes checked the gardening habits, which has now another opportunity, and we hope it may now progress 17 06 13 CIPof

1917 11 07

Allegations against smallholders - A report of the Smallholdings and Allotments Committee, moved for adoption at the quarterly meeting of the Cambs. County Council on Saturday contained a paragraph regarding notices to quit or cautions given to smallholdings were not properly cultivated. Ald. Redfern said it appeared from the report that out of 73 tenants 61 were not satisfactory. He thought it was time they had the assurance that things were not so bad as they looked.—Coun, H. G, Few said they had 400-odd tenants and of that number they had 58 in the Western and 15 in the Eastern Division who were not entirely satisfactory with regard to their cultivation. Nine tenants were to have notice to quit and they occupied 65 acres 3 roods 31 poles out of 10,408 acres. No man could point to any private estate which, in the same piece of land there was as little complaint as that. They must be reasonable in their attitude towards the smallholders who had great difficulties to master. Ald Refern said he had served his purpose in obtaining the information he wanted 17 11 07 CIPof

1919

1919

NIAB established (King George V opens Huntingdon Road HQ, 1921) [5.3]

1920

1920 10 13

St Catharine's College grove of elms cut down – photos –, notes on site - Ch 20 10 13d well discovered, don lowered down – Ch 20 12 08

1921

1921

NIAB opening by Queen Mary in 1921 – memories – 69 03 07

1922

1922 05 06

My readers will learn with great regret that Brooklands Avenue (Cambridge) with its countless romantic associations appears to be fore-doomed to destruction. The beautiful trees which provide the leafy tunnel which for generations has been so much admired are elms, and elms have an unpleasant habit of dismembering themselves with age. A good many of the trees must come down at once, as they are in such a decayed state to be liable to split and fall without warning 22 05 06 [3.9]

1922 07 22

Botanic Garden likely to have £1,362 deficit [3.11]

1924

1924 07 17

A new allotment society was formed in Cambridge at a meeting of applicants for land in the Vinery road allotments. Mr Newman said this particular land had been allocated for allotments under the Town Planning Act and the 11½ acres would be allotments for ever. (Applause). It was to be hoped they would be made to look very beautiful and that uniform fencing would be erected. The Central Allotments Council hoped to eventually take the whole of the allotments from the Town Council and would be able to run them much better 24 07 17

1924 11 25

Sir – To my thinking there are, for a town the size of Cambridge, too many useless trees by half : trees that are neither useful nor ornamental. Take a walk along Grange Road and look at some of the expensive villas there being ruined by trees planted in the small space of ground around them, blocking out the air and harbouring all kinds of insects. Where can you take a walk and get a view of a glorious sunset or beautiful landscape. Your vision is marred by a lot of unnecessary trees. I think a good purpose would be served if hundreds of trees were cut down and sold as cheap firewood to many poor people – “An old lover of Cambridge” 24 11 25

1928

1928

Elms cut down in front of St Catharine's College [1.16]

1930

1930 02 01

The Backs look very desolate just now for fifteen of the giant elms have been condemned to death and the axe and saw has already accounted for most of them. The trees are being felled because their tops have become rotten and there is a danger of passers-by. Children are making the scene their playground and gathering firewood to take home and young amateur woodmen trying their skills with choppers when the workmen are not looking at them. The trees will be replaced by young elms. There is a variety of opinion about the age of the trees; some put them at 180 years but other say none is more than 100 years old. 30 02 01

1932

1932

Trees at Green End Road & Kendal Way planted, oaks from USA [1.3]

1933

1933 02 23

Sir – many a lover of trees mourns the cutting down of the fine Pagoda tree, Sophora Japonica, which stood in Downing Street. It was about 200 years old and doubtless adorned the Botanical Garden there before it moved to its present site. A young American who was sadly photographing its headless trunk says it was one of the finest specimens in England. Why do we not value our ancient trees as we do our buildings? - F.P. Leyburn-Yarker 33 02 23a – photo 33 03 01

1934

1934 01 30

The greenhouses at Cambridge borough cemetery were beyond repair and would have to be scrapped. But more glasshouse accommodation was now required for the propagation of plants used on the recreation grounds. Two new 120 ft glasshouses could be constructed on the West Chesterton recreation ground where a house could be built for the man in charge, councillors agreed. 34 01 30

1935

1935 02 02

In the gale of January 26th an ancient and somewhat decrepit sycamore in the Sidney Sussex College Fellows' Garden was blown down. This tree was the last survivor of an avenue of sycamores planted in 1607-8 along the east side of that part of the King's Ditch which crossed the college grounds from the end of Hobson Street to Jesus Lane and thence along the side of Park Street. In the college

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

accounts are payments to Thomas Hobson, the carrier, 'for bringing the sycamore trees from London ... iiii. xd' 35 02 02

1935 05 11

Many who frequent the University Botanic Gardens will be sorry to learn of the death of 'Tommy', the old pony who had been a familiar sight for 30 years. He had reached the great age of 35 and was a special favourite with children who loved to take him sugar and other little dainties. Old ladies too used to make quite a fuss of him. Tommy helped to pull the lawn mower and was working up to a few days ago – 35 05 11c

1935 09 17

A gale which raged all night wreaked sad havoc amongst the leafy avenues and clusters of trees of which Cambridge is so proud. The Backs bore the appearance of having been shelled by a volley of artillery and Queen's Road had to be closed. A Huntingdon elm, the pride of Trinity garden, was blown down. A tree was blown half into the water at Jesus Green Baths while another came down near Park Parade. Hundreds of 'conkers' were blown down, to the delight of the kiddies and large quantities of ripe and unripe fruit fell on the ground. 35 09 17

1936

1936 03 06

Sir - Great falls and breakages in the main line of elms along the Backs began in a gale 40 years ago. They have come at intervals ever since and will certainly continue as the trees are much more diseased and feeble than the public knows. Twelve years ago King's cleared fifty yards of the sad wreckage of old trees and planted a double reserve line. These are now well grown but some have been broken. The public may look forward to more random falls whenever the wind is high and a limited amount of controlled felling and replanting where the trees are judged to be worst. But there will be no sudden large clearances and we are taking the best advice we can – Vice-Provost, King's College 36 03 06c

1936 05 12

The Seed Testing Station, Huntingdon Road was established as during the Great War farmers had not been getting the best seeds and new regulations had to be worked out. The main work is carried out by a staff of 30 girls. There are sections dealing with cereals, grasses and clover – where a bad weed called dodder has to be separated - together with a vegetable germination room where an ingenious device automatically plants 200 seeds in a pan. Onion and parsnip seeds are tested periodically – they will keep for two years then go off altogether. 36 05 12

1936 12 07

Since 1921 there have been 2,800 allotment holders in Cambridge. One man had entered the national onion competition and came first in all England. There were 187 applicants for allotments from among the unemployed during the past season. Where men had to do work on the soil to produce food it meant keeping in really good health. That 'daily dozen' weeding or hoeing or digging the ground was of the greatest importance. But the allotments should be permanent: it was hard for a man who has to leave his land after about 18 months. 36 12 07 & a & b

1937

1937 07 07

Elm disease has attacked some of the trees along the Backs at Cambridge. Some have been topped and others are definitely going bad. But experts believe the disease is not so serious as first feared. A number of trees have recovered and there is no need to be in a hurry to fell those which have been affected. At Sheep's Green and Coe Fen the trees are chiefly willows but some are not as happy as they might be. They could be replaced by cricket bat willows which are pretty trees and the most profitable grown at present, a Forestry expert told Rotarians. 37 07 07b

1937 08 14

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

Mr W. Ridgeon established his shop in old Sussex Street in 1902 and moved to their new premises in 1932 since when the business has steadily grown. Now with their own nursery at Castle Street and lawn mower works at Westfield Lane they pride themselves on giving the best and most complete garden service in Cambridge. The business also includes a modern floral department and a section devoted to all dog and pet foods and requisites. 37 08 14

1947

1947 07 14

Sir - I think it is scandalous that 31 trees should be removed from Newmarket Road, Cambridge. This is easily the least imposing approach to the town and the removal of the trees will make it ten times worse. Why is this road always chosen when a site has to be found for a new refuse dump. Why has it such a bad road surface for such an important main thoroughfare. Those things just have to be tolerated, I suppose, but I sincerely hope that Newmarket Road may retain its one redeeming feature - the trees - letter from L.R. Thurston 47 07 14

1948

1948

Trinity College Avenue of limes to be removed [1.13 & 2.2]

1949

1949 09 24

Rare weeping elm cut down in Chapmans Garden Emmanuel College, had Dutch elm disease [2.1]

1949 11 24

Trinity new Avenue – 44 trees planted 49 11 24

1950

1950 01 27

Brooklands Avenue: 92 elms, many diseased, remain out of 180 planted 100 years ago; 50 destroyed 1937 & by 1940 disease so prevalent that there was no use planting new, those left are coming down at rate of 1 to 5 per year 50 01 27 p9

1950 11 30

Explosions as 16 elm trees aged about 500 years are removed from the Backs 50 11 30 p7

1951

1951 02 03

Willows on the edge of Newnham Mill pond too old, being replaced by golden willow 51 02 03 p9

1951 05 01

Over the last few decades St John's college grounds in the Backs have suffered severely from the loss of trees by decay, storm damage and elm disease. A survey showed there were many trees so diseased that they might fall down at any time, including most of those in the remains of the Avenue leading to Queen's Road. A comprehensive scheme for replanting has been adopted. In place of the former elms a new avenue of limes will be planted 51 05 01

1951 08 04

Sir – the Cambridge Backs are unfortunately no more – at all events in their full glory of the giant and venerable trees. If King's College chapel should disappear from the scene untold photographic representations of it would remain, but of these giant monuments of the past there is little. To fill the void I have reproduced in picture postcard form a photograph of my own. There may be many persons who have walked under the shadow of these great trees of the Backs and I could arrange for it to be on sale. – Sir Henry McAnally

1952

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

1952 09 05

Magdalene College fell horse chestnut as damaging wall of River Court 52 09 05 p9

1953

1953 07 03

Botanic Garden announce plan to double size by 1960 523 07 03, p9

1953 08 04

To the everyday passer-by the tall stately elm trees in Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, give the impression of being sound and sturdy. But some have now been cut down and it can be seen that sections of their trunks are hollow! Six have been taken down and there are a further 20 which have serious defects and decay. It was in April 1950 that the City Council decided to remove all the trees and replant the Avenue with new ones, but owing to public opinion the decision was reversed. If the present disease continues it will not be many years before most of the common elm trees in Cambridge have been removed.

1953 11 30

Sir – the trees which were the focal point of Victoria Park, a pleasant cul-de-sac of urban Cambridge, are now lying on their sides awaiting removal; one or two were diseased and some of the roots were interfering with soil drains. By a happy combination of simple group planning and the breaking down of the artificial barrier between home and green caused by the removal of the railings during the war, the Park was something quite unique. To plant replacement anaemic flowering sticks of trees with ‘touch me not’ flowerbeds will turn it into another piece of suburbia. – D. McLeod.

1954

1954 04 15

Botanic Garden new rock garden constructed 54 04 15 p9

1954 02 12

The elm tree on the pavement near the junction of Drummer Street and Emmanuel Road, Cambridge, is probably 250 years old. It is a little over 70 feet in height and sixteen feet in circumference. In the 1940s some of the lower branches were removed to prevent contact by omnibuses but now extensive rotting has taken place in the main branches. These should be removed and any hollows scraped out and filled with concrete, but in view of its scientific interest as much as possible should be retained. The Botanic Garden hopes to perpetuate samples from the old tree by grafting some of its twigs on to young elms 54 02 12

1954 04 13

The inaugural meeting of the Cambridge Flower Decoration Club was held in the Guildhall with an audience of several hundred people – almost entirely of women. The Mayor said the city council was fully alive to the value of floral decorations. On one roundabout alone as many as 4,000 plants were used. There was criticism of the money spent on floral decorations but residents and visitors appreciated the added beauty they gave the city. The new Club could bring Cambridge extra fame by becoming one of the centres of floral art. No fewer than 143 people have now joined. 54 04 13

1955

1955 07 16

The Plant Breeding Institute's new buildings and experimental grounds at Trumpington were opened by the Minister of Agriculture. It investigates the improvement of Spring and winter wheat and breeds oats adapted to climatic conditions of the Eastern counties whilst in potatoes its chief concern is the battle with blight, eelworm, wart and virus diseases. A pathological section has recently been established. 55 07 16a & aa [2.18]

1956

1956 11 10

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

Cambridge Preservation Society acquire Wandlebury 56 11 10 p9

1956 11 19

Cambridgeshire & Isle of Ely Naturalists Trust formed [2.24, 5.7]

1957

1957 05 09

Cambridge Natural History Society celebrates centenary [5.6]

1957 09 16

You would hardly expect to find flowers and plants high above Cambridge in the land of roof tops and chimney stacks but among the slated slopes of 4, St Andrew's Street Mrs P. Southgate has created a roof garden. She has turned a small lobby into a conservatory with trailing plants and ferns, tubs and boxes of earth making an attractive relief to what can so easily be a dismal scene. 57 09 06

1958

1958 09 27

A new Cambridge Gardening Club held its inaugural meeting. They would have 'Club Nights' for the discussion of gardening problems and exchange cuttings and plants. Gardening was not just perspiration: the greatest joy was to sit in it and see what you have done. The use of mechanisation made gardening easier but it was considered an unnecessary extravagance to buy such items. The club could provide machines which they could hire. 58 09 27

1959

1959 07 16

The Minister of Agriculture opened new laboratory and office buildings at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany. The extension had been needed for a very long time: it has been bursting at the seams. NIAB was established in 1919 and in October 1921 King George V opened the Huntingdon Road headquarters designed by Morley Horder. Since then the average yield of wheat has gone up from 17 cwt to nearly 25 cwt and that of barley had increased more than half. 59 07 16, 18 & a

1959 10 29

Dahlia Society formed – 59 10 29

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1960 04 21

Cambridge will be without its usual street decorations this summer because the staff at the Corporation's Cherry Hinton Hall Nurseries are busy preparing plants for the Royal Show ground. The Hall came into the council's possession soon after 1934 and now two acres are used to grow plants for roundabouts and recreation grounds. They include fuchsias, petunias, stocks, asters, dahlias and lobelia to say nothing of 3,000 daffodils, 20,000 pansies and 40,000 wallflowers. 60 04 21b

1960 09 23

Mr & Mrs Peter Issitt of Arbury Road have a beautiful small landscaped garden with miniature Alpine outcrops planned to give an illusion of space. The pond attracts a variety of wild life. Two hedgehogs, seven toads and a collection of frogs live in the garden and birds come each day for bathing and drinking. Their two small daughters have no complaints. They have a lawn with a swing to play on and appreciate the artistic setting 60 09 23

1961

1961 10 31

Trees being removed from Four Lamps area in preparation for road widening scheme and alterations to roundabout 61 10 31a

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

1962

1962 11 07

Cherry Hinton chalk pit may be preserved as an area of exceptional educational value for the study of natural history. It is not an amenity at the moment but should be made one as the chalk cliff is an area of interest. Cambridge University has said it may provide the services of a warden for the area if it were left untouched. The eight-acre site, recently vacated by the Cambridge Civil Defence Corps, is next to land scheduled for extensions to the Grammar School for Boys playing field. 62 11 07 [5.8]

1962 02 04

Parkers Piece elms becoming dangerous [5.13]

1962 04 11

A special road island will be built so that a 50 ft elm tree can retain its present position near Four Lamps Roundabout. Part of Butt Green has been cut away to make room for a wider roadway and now the tree, which once stood on the Green, is in the middle of the main road. Other elms were cut down as part of the scheme to speed the traffic flow and reduce congestion. Work has taken much longer than expected because of the large number of cables and wires that needed re-routing 62 04 11 [5.14]

1964

1964 10 24

Two 40-ft lime trees moved from Milton Rd to Arbury Estate to make room houses [5.15]

1965

1965

70 ft high rotten trees removed Alexandra Gardens

1965 01 22

The greenhouses of Cherry Hinton Hall are coming apart with walls bulging, rooms leaking and draughts. Dampness and poor heating make the task of producing sturdy plants soul destroying for the staff of the propagating centre. The boilers are old, obsolete and temperamental. Stoking goes on day and night in boiler rooms which have no proper ventilation. The dust is choking and at times the fumes are so powerful the stoker is in danger of being overcome. But if the temperature drops plants and seedlings will die by the score – 65 01 22

1967

1967 08 21

Ted Peacock opens Byron Square, Trumpington, council house garden, 1,000 visitor (again 1970,71,73,74) [5.1]

1969

1969 01 13

N.I.A.B. celebrates 50th birthday; was opened by King George V and Queen Mary; started with 10 acres of grounds, worked on virus-free potatoes – 69 01 13a

1969 03 13

NIAB Royal Jubilee – Queen visits – 69 03 13a , b # c.18

1973

1973 06 29

NIAB : new building to make it centre new national seed control network under EEC [5.5]

1973 08

Dutch elm disease [5.16]

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

1975

1975 08 03

Some of the most sought after scenery in Cambridge is being devastated as a result of the fight against Dutch elm disease. Tourists visiting the backs of the colleges will find tree felling in full swing. The disease has spread to trees near Trinity's main college buildings and systematic felling began there in March. The college had carried out an intensive programme of tree injection but despite this the disease is spreading & it has decided to fell all the elm trees and replace them with limes 75 08 03 [5.17,6.1]

1976

1976 01 16

Trees along Cambridge's world-famous Backs felled because of the spread of Dutch elm disease have now been replaced. More than a dozen lime tree have been planted at Trinity College Pieces to replace 20 elms recently felled. Trinity college bursar said, "Not all of the elms were diseased but they were felled because, once the disease starts in a row it is difficult to contain unless all are removed". The disease was beginning to appear in a number of other elms, although at the moment those in the Fellows' Garden were unaffected 76 01 16

1976 07 12

Has there ever been a more disastrous year for the trees of Cambridgeshire than 1976? The mild winter allowed the elm bark beetles to live on and their work of infection and destruction is plain to seen. In the high temperatures and drying winds of the last few weeks giant elm trees have taken only a few days to turn from green to brown. In January, gales felled many a fine tree which had taken a century or more to mature. Now Wandlebury has closed because the great heat is causing apparently healthy trees to shed branches without warning. What is more frightening is that young trees planted to make good the loss are dying too 76 07 12

1976 08 26

A rescue operation has been mounted at the University Botanic Garden to save fish from a lake which is drying up. The lake, one of the main scenic attractions, started to fall about ten days ago and dozens of fish, mostly larger roach, dace and chub, have been transferred to the nearby fountain pond. Now they are threatened by swooping herons. The lake is normally fed by Hobson's Conduit, but all but one of the springs at Nine Wells has now dried up and even the one that is active has been reduced to a trickle 76 08 26

1976 09 10

Most of the 38, century-old elm trees around Parker's Piece, Cambridge are likely to be chopped down within 10 years because of Dutch Elm disease. A number of the elms along Gonville Place are known to be diseased and felling has already started. Now tree experts fear that at least 80% of the others are likely to be affected. Replanting, using oriental planes, weeping silver limes and hybrid lime would be an ideal opportunity to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 76 09 10

1977

1977 07 23

The Mayor of Heidelberg officially opened the rooftop garden above Lion Yard, Cambridge, which has been named after the German town to mark the link between Cambridge and its twin university town. Oberburgermeister Renhold Zundel said a scheme similar to Lion Yard was being built in his city and they might have a garden named after Cambridge soon. 77 07 23

1977 12 12

The mystery of oriental activity on Cambridge's Coe Fen deepened with proof that its water margins abound in wild cress – and further evidence of Chinese harvesters. Streams by the Leys School are virtually choked with watercress and one resident told how she watched a group of 10 Chinese carefully cutting and bailing the cress. Generations of Newtown people culled the Coe Fen paddy

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

fields for their own salads and there are memories of a professional cress gatherer, 'Tug' Wilson, who operated before the First World War and sold it round the pubs and houses. He used to have a wooden cart he towed along and people ate it because they thought it was good for the blood. 77 12 12

1978

1978 05 25

Elm Emmanuel Rd & Drummer St to be felled, diseased - 250 years old, stood on pavement, rare & twigs from it grafted on to young elm trees in Botanic Garden [6.2,5.12]

1978 08 21

Peter Issitt, Arbury Road 30,000 miniature trees [5.2]

1980

1980 09 19

Cambridge's top amateur gardener, Mr Ted Peacock, has died. He hit the headlines in the early '70s when he decided to open his Byron Square gardens so people could see the dahlias which were his pride and joy. It became an annual event and the wealthy turned up in their Rolls-Royces. He was an expert on many other flowers, fruit and vegetables and probably won more gardening show prizes than anyone else over a period of 40 years. 80 09 19b

1982

1982 07 30

A renewed upsurge of Dutch elm disease is leaving a trail of devastation with Jesus Green suffering most. Other trees on Parker's Piece and Petersfield are showing the yellowing leaves and premature loss of foliage typical of the disease. It has been rampant in the past few weeks and it looks as if there will be hardly any elms surviving in Cambridge in two years time. But a five-year tree-planting scheme is expected to make good the losses. 82 07 30 [6.3]

1983

1983 10 07

About half the giant elms trees which have lined Parker's Piece for the last 150 years have been cut down – the latest victims of the deadly Dutch elm disease. Twelve elms along Gonville Place have already gone and the famous park looks totally unfamiliar without its border of towering trees. The council plans to have lime trees and London planes, some have been planted and already reached 18 feet in height. 83 10 07 p14

1984

1984 01 18

Plant Breeding Institute threatened by cuts (1986 Government announce plans to privatise National Seed development Organisation & part of Institute), founded 75 years ago (from 1986), grows varieties of wheat, potatoes & field beans, (1987 several departments to merge with John Innes institute Norwich, other parts of research programme hived off to industry) [5.9,5.10-11]

1985

1985 04 11

Choppen's links with Saffron Walden go back to the 19th century when the family moved their engineering business to the town from Great Chesterford. John Choppen, the founder, was also a local fireman and drove the horse-drawn fire engine. His son Frank, under whose control the business prospered, died in 1962. They established a branch in Fitzroy Street Cambridge in 1964 with a purpose-built garden machinery centre in Barnwell road opening in 1980. Now expansion continues with a new headquarters with offices, workshops and showrooms in Thaxted Road, Walden. 85 04 11

1986

1986 07 28

Months of uncertainty for the Trumpington-based Plant Breeding Institute have been ended with confirmation that parts are to be sold to the private sector and others amalgamated with a newly-created Plant Science Institute. Staff may be relocated and some research might halt completely. The sugar beet programme has already been wound up and one man now tends the gene bank of varieties – 7,000 for barley alone – from which much of its celebrated work makes its humble beginnings. 86 07 28a

1986 09 22

Most of the trees on Parker's Piece are about 150 years old. But they are under threat: the limes are deteriorating and Dutch Elm disease is making such insidious progress that there will probably be no elms left in five years. Now young trees are being planted but it will be the end of the century before they make their full impact. Elsewhere getting trees established has been difficult with maintenance through watering and staking almost forgotten once the burst of enthusiasm for planting has abated. 86 09 22

1987

1987 07 03

Scientists at the Plant Breeding Institute at Trumpington are preparing to welcome Princess Anne who will present them with another Queen's Award for Industry, this one for breeding high winter wheats. Their work in producing crops resistant to the ravages of disease and selecting varieties that flourish in harsh conditions is vital to poor countries. But, after 75 years, the Institute is being sold off by the Government with many of the scientists having to move to Norwich 87 07 03b

1988

1988 04 22

Plant Breeding Institute changes name to Plant Breeding International co.ltd [CEN 22.4.88]

1999

1999 07

Princess Diana rose garden created, Jul [Rev]